ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

29 Smith St, Daylesford, Vic 3460
Phone: (03) 5348 1261
Website: www.smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au
Email: admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Excellence, Nurture, Community

Friday May 1st 2026

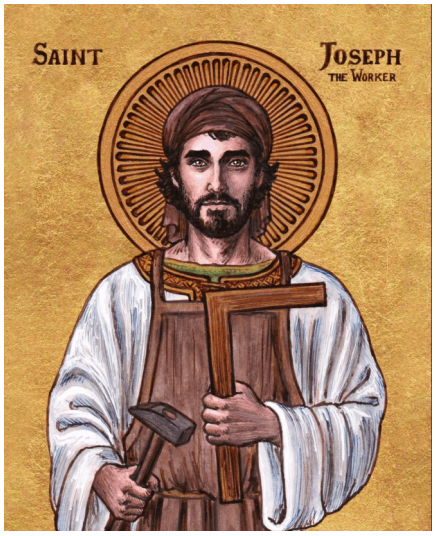
Reflection:

Much of family life is made up of ordinary, everyday moments—preparing meals, helping with homework, going to work, tidying up, and caring for one another. These tasks can sometimes feel repetitive or unnoticed, yet they are where love is most often lived out.

In a world that often values success and recognition, it is easy to overlook the quiet effort it takes to keep a home running and to support one another each day. But it is in these small, consistent acts of care that patience, generosity, and faithfulness are formed.

For families, this is an invitation to see daily responsibilities in a new light. The work we do—both inside and outside the home—can become an expression of love and service. Children, too, learn not just from what we say, but from how we approach these everyday moments.

This week, we might pause and ask: *How can I bring a little more care and intention to the tasks before me? Where do I notice quiet acts of love shaping our home?*
Even in the simplest routines, there is meaning, purpose, and the opportunity to grow together.



Dear Families,

Welcome to Term Two!
Already we are at the end of week 2. It has been lovely to see how quickly all of the children have settled back into the routines and are demonstrating St Michael's 5. Most children will be able to tell you what they are themselves.

WELCOME

- Finlay (Emmy-Rose and Rory) who started in Discovery 1 last Monday.
- George (Lucy & Tyler) who will start in Discovery 1 this coming Monday.

THANK YOU

- Fiona Cooper who has stepped into Discovery 1 and Innovation 2 in Tim's absence

Tim is returning on Monday after Long Service Leave. We have certainly missed his presence in our school community.

Anzac Day

It was pleasing to see students represent our school at the ANZAC Day Parade held in Daylesford. As Ian Tenitti (President of the Daylesford RSL) mentioned in his address, it is extremely important that young people continue to recognise the significance of days such as ANZAC Day. Many thanks to the families who supported students in conducting themselves with great reverence on the day.

Opening of Avenue of Honour

Thank you to Darcy Pastore who was supported by Joe, Teresa and Shay to represent St Michael's in the opening of the Avenue of Honour. Ian Tinetti spoke about this being the beginning and it is now up to the next generation of young people along with the Daylesford Community to continue its journey and create history on the Daylesford map.

Congratulations—

On Saturday 25 April, Nova's mum Nicola Weston, opened her Studio named Strange Bird. This is such an exciting opportunity for the Daylesford community. Please see the flyer included in the newsletter

On Sunday 26th April at St Peter's Church, following months of instruction and support from our Adopted Parishioners, Tom and Judy Perfect, Laura, Vaughn and Rosie Buby were inducted as members of the Catholic Church, with Laura receiving Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, whilst Vaughn and Rosie received the Sacrament of Baptism.

On April 22nd, Kira, James and Xavier welcomed Akasha Rose to their family. She's all loved up and we can't wait to meet her

Cross Country
Today we had 30 students from Years 4- 6 who participated admirably in the Goldfields Cross Country event held at the Clunes Golf Club. Equally pleasing was to hear how well each of the 22 students representing our school conducted themselves. Thanks to Manny Kerr and Sarah Mooney for assisting the students so well over the course of the day.

Responsible Pet Ownership
On Monday we will participate in a Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion which will teach us how we need to act safely around dogs and other pets. We are confident that all of our children will show respectful listening and engagement in these sessions.

Mother's Day liturgy

On **Friday May 8** we will be holding a Mother's Day breakfast (8:00am in the undercover area) and liturgy (9:05am in the Presentation Centre) to celebrate those who play such an important role in the lives of our students. A reminder that one photo of mums/special people with their children needs to be sent through to Sarah Mooney (smooney@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au) **today**.

Slippers and a change of clothes
With the colder months now upon us and with the view of keeping our school buildings in great condition, we are inviting all students to bring a pair of slippers to school. When entering the school building after playing outside, students would take off their school shoes and change into their slippers.
In addition, students who use the oval to play football or soccer at recess and lunch are encouraged to bring an old jumper and pair of pants they can put on over the top of their school uniform which they can easily take off when coming back into classrooms.

Parent helpers
It has been great to see an increase in the number of parent/carer volunteers we have assisting at school in a variety of ways. A reminder that all parents volunteering on school grounds need to sign in at the front office beforehand, and then sign out upon leaving. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding in relation to this extremely important requirement.

Key Dates for Term 2

Week 3
Monday May 4: Responsible Pet Ownership visits for all students
Thursday May 7: Golf clinics for students in Years 4-6
Friday May 8: Mother's Day Breakfast (8:00am) and Liturgy (9:05am)
Sunday May 10: Confirmation Dismissal 2: St. Peter's Church beginning 10:30am

Week 4
Monday May 11: Students to be dressed in full winter uniform
Tuesday May 12: Year 6 Little Feet Big Footprints excursion to St. Patrick's Primary School, Gordon
Thursday May 14: School Closure Day (staff retreat)
Friday May 15: School Closure Day (staff retreat)
Sunday May 17: Confirmation Dismissal 3: St. Peter's Church beginning 10:30am

Week 5
Thursday May 21: Golf clinics for students in Years 4-6
Friday May 22: Working Bee (3:30pm-5:00pm)
Sunday May 24: Sacrament of Confirmation: St. Peter's Church beginning 10:30am

Week 6
Thursday May 28: Athletics at Llanberris for students in Years 3-6
Friday May 29: Discovery 2 Assembly (9:05am)

Week 7
Monday June 1: PSGs Day 1
Tuesday June 2: PSGs Day 2

Week 8
Monday June 8: King's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday June 12: Discovery 1 Assembly (9:05am)

Week 9
Wednesday June 17: Mini Vinnies Presentation for students in Years 3-6 (9am-10am)
Friday June 19: St. Michael's has got Talent (3:30pm-5:30pm in the Presentation Centre)

Week 10
Friday June 26: Innovation 2 Assembly (9:05am), reports home and final day of term (2:15pm finish)

School Closure Days
A reminder of our school closure days for the year:

Thursday & Friday May 14th-15th
Friday September 18th
Monday November 2nd

Please note that **Thursday December 17** will be the final day of the year for students.

LEARNING & TEACHING

Little Feet Big Footprints - Young leader's initiative
Little Feet Big Footprints experiences will continue for our Year 6 students this term. The next excursion will be taking place at St. Patrick's Primary School, Gordon on Tuesday May 12.

Report's
This term teachers will be planning and assessing in preparation for report writing. As per School Policy, your child will receive a report twice a year. One for Semester One and one for Semester Two. Closer to the end of the term we will provide information on reading and understanding your child's report. This is always a celebration of your child's learning and allows the children to set goals for the second half of the school year.

WELLBEING

Student Surveys
Towards the end of Term One, all students completed a wellbeing survey which asked questions about their enjoyment of school and how they viewed themselves as learners at St. Michael's. Students were also asked to identify what makes an effective teacher and what resources do students feel as though they need in order to be at their best. Teachers are now in the process of following up information gained from these surveys. If needed, teachers will also speak individually with students/and or make a phone call home. The purpose of these surveys is to ensure that we, as a school, are doing everything we can to ensure students are presented with a positive and engaging learning environment in which they are able to be at their best.

How was your day?
Do you ask your child or children 'how was your day?' after school and often receive a one word response? Try asking some of the following questions which may create deeper dialogue:

Did you learn anything new and interesting today?
Did you talk to anyone new?
Did anything funny or exciting happen?
What was your favourite part of your day?
What books did you read?
Was there anything that you didn't understand or needed help with?
Did you have any special projects or assignments today?

School TV

School TV is an award winning resource which helps to support the mental health and well being of young people. You will find short videos and articles on cyber-safety, discussing conflict, resilience, respectful relationships, friendship and belonging to name a few. For more information, click on the following link: **https://smdaylesford.catholic.schooltv.me**

The next topic is now available - Do It For Dolly Day. *Do It For Dolly Day is a national reminder that kindness matters and that everyone has a role to play in creating safe and inclusive communities. This Special Report provides practical guidance to help families understand bullying, support their child and promote empathy, respect and positive relationships, ensuring no child feels alone.*

Clubs

Beginning in Week 2, clubs will continue to run every Wednesday afternoon on **even weeks.** We are currently offering cooking, origami, yoga, sustainability, art, music, STEM, Social Stories and a geology club. Over the year, the children will have the opportunity to participate in all of them.

Toys at School

While we understand that children love their toys and may find comfort in bringing a favourite item from home, toys can become a distraction in the classroom or can be misplaced if taken outside at recess or lunch.

Our goal is to provide a learning environment where every child can stay focused, feel safe, and enjoy their school day. To support this, we ask that all personal toys and trading cards are given to each child's respective classroom teacher for safe keeping. If children are bringing a ball to school, we ask that their name is on it. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a positive and productive school atmosphere!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mother's Day Raffle

Be sure to join us for our Mother's Day Liturgy next Friday at 9:05am where our lucky prize winners will be announced! Thank you to the SAC for organising the vouchers.

Playgroup

Our Playgroup sessions will continue this term on the following dates:

Thursday May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11 and June 18

Sessions will be held in the Presentation Centre from 9:30am-11:30am and will be run by Central Highlands Rural Health Playgroup representative Jazz.

smalltalk
Giving your kids a great start

PlayGroup

JOIN A LOCAL SMALLTALK PROGRAM TODAY...

DAYLESFORD
SMALL TALK PLAYGROUP
Thursdays 9.30-11.30
St Michael's Primary School, Daylesford
29 Smith Street, Daylesford

For more information and to come along
Contact Jaz: 0428 385 201

Smalltalk is a free supported playgroup for parents, carers and children. It's a friendly, relaxed and inclusive playgroup that runs each week during school terms. Smalltalk is run by a trained facilitator in conjunction with the Central Highlands Rural Health Maternal and Child Health Team.

Small talk is designed for:

- Parents and carers to have fun with their children
- Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to play and learn together
- To include play, music, learning, connection and engagement in a fun way
- Ideas are shared to support children's learning and development

Playgroup Victoria

Central Highlands Rural Health

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CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sacramental program
We wish all students (Year 3) preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next term all the very best. Dismissals will be taking place at St. Peter's Church at the following times:

Dismissal 1: Sunday May 3 @ 10:30am
Dismissal 2: Sunday May 10 @ 10:30am
Dismissal 3: Sunday May 17 @ 10:30am
Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday May 24 @ 10:30am

Catholic Education Week (May 25–29)
The theme for this year is "Peace be with you all". The week focuses on bringing hope, compassion, and understanding to communities, reflecting a message of peace and divine love.
As Catholic Education Week approaches, we will be inviting families to join us *Catholic Identity Learning Walks which will be held throughout the week.*
The idea of these walks is to help families see how our Catholic identity is lived and breathed in our school — through prayer, relationships, curriculum, symbols, and everyday practice.
We think these walks will provide parents and carers with an experience as to what makes Catholic education so distinctive.
More information will be shared with families over the coming weeks.

Caritas - Project Compassion
This Lent, our school community was a part of something truly extraordinary. As of today we have banked $319.90.

As part of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, we unite with schools and parishes across the country in solidarity with vulnerable communities all over the world, paving the way to a brighter, more just future for all.

Our whole school community stepped up and answered the call, and we are truly grateful to all of you for your incredible support. We harnessed the collective kindness and generosity of our students, parents, teachers and wider community and turned it into real, lasting change for those who need it most. Together, we became a powerful force for good, achieving so much more together than we ever could alone.

THANK YOU for standing with us and choosing to *Unite Against Poverty this Lent!*

It's not too late to donate! If you still have your Project Compassion donation boxes at home, please remember to bring them back ASAP.

Target 1000 Project - Bread Tags
Students at St. Mary's Primary School, Clarke's Hill are collecting bread tags so that they can save them from going to landfill. They hope to collect 1000 bread tags! Part of this project is to help our environment, and part is to help understand the Place Value number system.
Please assist by sending bread tags into St Michael's Daylesford. We will be sending them over to St Mary's.
Bread tags are the small plastic clips used to seal bread bags. Because of their size and material (polystyrene), they can't be recycled through standard curb side systems and often end up in landfills.
Plastic bread tags are collected through the **Banish Recycling and Diversion (BRAD) Program**, one of Australia's largest community recycling initiatives. Thousands of Australians send us their hard-to-recycle plastics each month.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Uniform
As we prepare for Term 2, all students should be in their full school winter uniform when they return to school on **Monday April 20**. To allow for variations in weather, a 2 week grace period will be given. This means that from **Monday May 4**, there will be an expectation that the correct winter uniform is worn until the end of Term 3. Please see the website, or contact the office if you are unsure of any items of uniform.

Sport/PE days: students may wear either tracksuit pants or shorts, and runners.
All other days: students must be in full correct winter uniform - NO shorts, and NO runners.
A note must be provided to your child's teacher in the instance where this cannot be adhered to. *Thank you for your support with this.*

School fees
Those families who have a health care card are eligible for family fee assistance and the camp/school excursion fund. If you have a health care card please supply the office with a copy for our records so that we can adjust statements as required.
Our fee payment preferred method is direct debit. Forms are available from the office to set up a payment plan, with a frequency and amount of your choosing. We also have an EFTPOS machine at school where they can be paid by card.

2027 enrolments
If you have a child or know someone that is interested in enrolling at St Michael's for 2027, could you please contact Leah (admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au or ph 5348 1261) and she will organise an enrolment for you to complete. We will be active in the kindergarten communities this year and will be keen to say hi to these children when we drop in.